State, prevailing prices of the controlled products etc., it is not possible to determine amounts of financial incentives in advance.

Blackmarketing of LPG Cylinders in Itanagar

3637. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG dealers in Itanagar district of Arunachal Pradesh and number of connections with each of them;

(b) whether Government are aware of[the fact that most of the dealers are black marketing LPG cylinders by showing the shortage of LPG in different parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E.PONNUSWAMY): (a) At present, there is only one distributorship of Indian Oil Corporation Limited namely M/s. Marina Gas located at Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and the number of customers/LPG connections with this distributor are 7247 as on 1.4.2000

(b) and (c) Regular check of the LPG distributors are carried out by Officers of the Oil Companies at different levels to prevent the black marketing of LPG and other malpractices etc. If any of the distributor is found indulging in any malpractice/irregularity, action is initiated against such distributor for the established malpractice/irregularities depending upon its nature, as per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship agreement in vogue.

Programmes for Poverty Afflicted Areas of Orissa

3638. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt.'s attention has been drawn to the report, captioned At 14, Kalahandi's Bonita was sold, Now she's selling herself part by part in the Telegraph on the 21st February, 2000;

(b) whether Kalahandi and various other pockets afflicted with abject poverty in Orissa and other States were identified in 1985 and year that followed;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) what schemes and programmes were launched for accelerated development of these pockets to bring them to the mainstream of national life; and

(e) the reasons for continued affliction of these pockets with abject poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. A Special Mention was raised by Shri Sanatan Bisi, M.P. in the Rajya Sabha on 28.2.2000 drawing attention to the news report.

(b) to (e) Planning Commission has not declared any region/district as backward or as pockets of abject poverty per se. However, to deal with the basic problems of the undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) in Orissa a Long Term Action Plan was launched in 1995 for the development of these districts. Thereafter, to ensure better focus on high priority schemes which would deal with the basic problems of these districts, the Government of Orissa was asked to prepare a revised plan. The Revised Long Term Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) consists of Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors, namely agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, irrigation, health, drinking water, emergency feeding, welfare of SCs/STs and rural connectivity.

After the initiation of the Revised Long Term Action Plan, additional funds of Rs. 37 crore were provided in the Annual Hlan 1998-99 of Orissa sepcially for these districts. In addition, Rs. 7 crore were provided for the Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units under Basic Minimum Services (BMS).

For Annual Plan 1999-2000, an additionality of Rs. 37 crore has been allocated over and above Rs. 10 crore earmarked for Drinking Water Supply, Rs. 8.60 crore for Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units under BMS.

Recurring drought and weak administration resulting in slow implementation of schemes, besides certain policies followed by the State Government are among the reasons for the continued affliction of these pockets with abject poverty. Efforts are being made to mitigate the endemic poverty of this region through a three-pronged approach: (i) Drought-proofing through watershed development, afforestation and extension of irrigation facilities; (ii)

A more responsive administration, and (iii) a change in some of the policies of the State Government related to non-timber forest products, land acquisition, restoration of alienated land and autnomy to village panchayats in financial matters.

Annual Growth Rate in GDP

†3639. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 6.5% growth forecast for next four years published in the business Standard dated 8th April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the annual growth rate in the Gross Domestic Product of the country is estimated to increase by 6.5% by next four years; and

(c) if so, the assessment of Government in this regard togetherwith the details of growth rate likely to be in agriculture, service and industry sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINNSTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. A news report has stated that the economy is projected to grow at 6.5% per annum over the next four years, according to the medium term forecasts of the institute of Economic Growth (IEG).

(b) and (c) the Planning Commission do not make annual forecasts of growth rate of the economy. However, the average rate of economic growth (measured by Gross Domestic Product a factor cost) in the country has been projected as 6.5% per year for the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-98 to 2001-2002). The growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors, industry and services as projected by the Plannng Commission for the Ninth Plan period are 3.9, 7.6 and 7.3 percent per annum respectively.

Mid-Term Appraisal of Ninth Plan

3640. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.